

Minutes of the meeting of Hexhamshire Parish Council held on Thursday 9th November 2017 in the Malcolm Caisley Meeting Rooms, Whitley Chapel Parish Hall.

11.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Gill Whatmough and Greg Finch.

Alastair Stevens took the Chair.

Councillors present: Alastair Stevens, Hilary Kristensen , Alison Tweddle, Austin Iliffe, Andrew Nixon, Davy Short, Edward Parker and Marge Rastall.

Colin Horncastle was also present.

Robert Carter, member of the public was also present.

The Parish Councillors held a minute's silence in respect of Teresa Gibson who had recently been tragically killed in an accident.

11.2 Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th October 2017

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting after the following amendment:

9.10.6 Should read 'Hackford' not 'Hackwood'.

11.3 Declaration of Interests

Andrew Nixon declared an interest in finance.

11.4 Matters Arising

9.11.2 It was reported that Juliet Rogers had not grazed the ponies on the wetlands.

9.15.1 There had been 3 people present at the annual clear up at The Arches, Gill Whatmough, Greg Finch and Pete Lee.

10.5 The issue had been passed to the Environmental Enforcement via Duncan Lovatt.

10.6.3 It was agreed that it was not necessary to have a ceremony re planning of the cherry tree.

10.6.4 Alastair Stevens agreed to arrange a speaker regarding neighbourhood plans.

10.7.2 This is pending in relation to current interest rate changes.

10.13.1 The ditch was to be dredged when Gill Whatmough was having work done in the neighbouring field.

10.13.2 The Dark Skies talk had an attendance of 65 and raised a total of £339 after costs.

10.13.3 It was reported that all tables had been sold for the Christmas Fayre.

10.13.4 Gill Whatmough had spoken to Jenny Morgan at the School who had advised that there were currently 32 pupils.

10.14.2 It was reported that the boulders at Kings Law were not required currently. The individuals concerned have been spoken to and warned not to leave litter. The situation is being monitored.

10.14.3 Alastair Stevens had attended the Parish Council Annual Conference and circulated his report to Parish Councillors by email.

11.5 Public Participation

Robert Carter was present regarding the planning application at Black Hall. He questioned the dates relating to the posting of the notices which had been erected on 8th November and not 23rd October as required. Colin Horncastle advised that he would get back to Robert Carter after speaking to planning.

11.6 Correspondence

- 11.6.1 Requests for funding had been received from Core Music and CAN which would be considered at a later Parish Council meeting.
- 11.6.2 An email had been received regarding Neighbourhood Plans. Funding is available of between £9K and £15K to encourage parish councils to draw up plans. The Parish Council would draw up policies to be used by the County Council when considering planning applications. Colin Horncastle advised that it is a positive tool and can safeguard green belt.
- 11.6.3 3 St Helen's Gate had been advertised extensively.

11.7 Financial Report

An invoice had been received regarding the grasscutting from D Nixon for the amount of £1190. It was agreed that this should be paid.

11.8 Matters for Discussion with the Unitary Councillor

- 11.8.1 Colin Horncastle agreed to contact the enforcement officers regarding Rushwood. It was reported that there was concern regarding the suitability of the land for keeping animals.
- 11.8.2 Colin Horncastle advised that the results of the Education Review would be made public by 20th November 2017.

11.9 Planning Applications

The prior notification for agricultural and forestry buildings at Black Hall had now been upgraded to an application for prior approval by the planners. Further information had been presented regarding the design and siting of the buildings. The Parish Council agreed to uphold their objection regarding the siting of the building.

Crossfield, Ordley Village – 17/03340/PRUTPO

The Parish Councillors were concerned about the 'by a minimum of 30%' wording and wished it noted that in their opinion there should be a maximum percentage for pruning instead'.

Change of use from holiday cottage to permanent residential dwelling with internal alterations, Riverside Chapel, Steel, Hexham, Northumberland NE47 OLE.

Listed Building consent for change of use from holiday cottage to permanent residential dwelling with internal alterations including the replacement of spiral staircase with standard staircase fitted to stud wall and the fitting of a log burner using the existing chimney to vent smoke. Riverside Chapel, Steel, Northumberland, NE47 OLE.

The Parish Council had no objection to the planning applications but wished it noted that this should not set a precedent.

Agricultural Cottage, Juniper – it was reported that a revised plan had been submitted reducing the width to 3 metres. An email had been sent to Planning advising of the Parish Councils objection to this revised plan.

11.10 Broadband

Austin Iliffe advised that the mast was on order but that there was nothing else to report.

11.11. Highways and Footpaths

11.11.1 An email had been received advising of the County Council's proposal to introduce a 20 mph speed limit at Whitley Chapel First School. It was agreed that the distance proposed should be reduced to the current siting of the school signs and an email was to be sent back to this effect.

11.11.2 Hilary Kristensen advised that there were potholes at Kings Law and she was to email photographs to Austin Iliffe.

11.11.3 Austin Iliffe advised that he would remind the County Council of the requested grit routes.

11.11.4 It was reported that the road surface from Dotland to Channel Well was very rough.

11.11.5 The junction at the end of the Lee Road was discussed. It was agreed that the junction is very dangerous.

11.11.6 The trees from Dipton Mill to Red House were reported as being potentially dangerous and it was suggested that they needed surveying urgently. Austin Iliffe agreed to report this.

11.12 BOATS

It was reported that there is still motorbike activity amongst the trees in Slaley Forest.

11.13 Reports

11.13.1 Wetlands – There was nothing to report.

11.13.2 Hall – There was nothing further to report.

11.13.3 School – There was nothing further to report.

11.13.4 Sportsfield/Play Area – The agreement of the rent at £750 pa had been advised to Hugo Remnant at Land Factor who was to arrange for the rent demand to be issued.

11.13.5 Andrew Nixon advised that it would be necessary for the grasscutting to be put out to tender for 2018. It was agreed to do this in January.

11.13.6 It was agreed that Austin Iliffe and Gill Whatmough would inspect the playground to see what needed to be done.

11.13.7 Smelting Arches

There were no issues raised.

11.14 Any Other Business

The question of whether to mark out parking spaces outside the Parish Hall was discussed and some volunteers came forward willing to mark the spaces out.

As there was no further business the meeting was declared closed.